



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: TX115**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Wichita, Clay, Archer, Jack counties – North Texas

Location of Veterinary Shortage:

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Intersection of Hwy 281/287 and 277/82, Wichita Falls, Texas

Location of Position:

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objectives of this veterinarian will be to become invested in the area with the goal of a career-long residence and service to the community. It is possible a veterinarian in this area could join an existing practice and benefit from mentoring opportunities as well as prepare to fill the void created as older area veterinarians retire. While this area has been nominated as a category II practice because 80% food animal practice may not be realistic, it is expected that the practitioner will focus on food animals in the area and recognize that there may be other vets already in the population centers filling the small animal and equine needs. Therefore the awardee would be expected to spend at least 40-50% of their time in food animal practice. The veterinarian would be an educated leader in the areas of herd health, preventive medicine and food animal welfare in the area, and serve as a voice for the veterinary profession to the community, general public, and area producers. The veterinarian could be located anywhere in an approximately 60-mile radius from the designated center.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

Most of the area is rural, consisting not only of beef cattle ranches and farms, but a growing population of small ruminant producers trying to expand the nation's meat production by raising sheep and goats. Daily activities of the veterinarian would include routine herd maintenance procedures, emergency calls, reproductive work (pregnancy checks, breeding soundness for bulls, etc), diagnosis and treatment of individual animal illness and injury. Some equine work related to the working cow horses in the area would be expected. The awardee would be fully accredited for large animal work through USDA and perform state regulatory work related to interstate movement, change of ownership, brucellosis and TB testing, swine herd accreditation, trichomoniasis, and health certificates. The importance of overall best herd management practices and food animal well-being will be emphasized. The veterinarian should be able to perform all aspects of surgery and medicine on a number of species, to perform emergency duties, to be available after-hours, and to be active in the community.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Retention of veterinarians is the primary problem. Vets who have practiced mixed animal medicine in this area have historically either left the area for financial reasons or transitioned to predominantly small animal/equine practice. While the area does have practicing veterinarians, at least 4 are over the age of 60 and are actively recruiting. One practice reportedly looked for 3 years before hiring a new associate. The area recently lost one of their most active food animal practitioners who had to retire for health reasons.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

If permanent veterinarians are not established in this area that can care for the over 300,000 local food animals there will be significant risk to this sector of agriculture and the economy. State and federal veterinary infrastructure provides an organized and effective response capacity throughout the state for any foreign, emerging, or zoonotic disease threat, and also holds the ultimate responsibility for maintaining the valuable safe and wholesome food supply that is currently produced in the state of Texas and exported nationally and internationally. However, private veterinary practitioners serve crucial functions in the early recognition of foreign and other significant animal disease problems, as well as educating livestock producers about appropriate animal care practices, judicious use of over-the-

counter drugs and remedies, and disease recognition and reporting. A decrease in the number of veterinarians directly and frequently inspecting livestock, and an increase in geographic distance between veterinary care and animal populations, over time could lead to an overall decrease in productivity and increased production costs. These consequences have potential effects on the long-term value and quality of animal products that we currently enjoy.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name:	Dee Ellis, DVM, MPA (point of contact Holly Poremski, DVM)
Title:	State Veterinarian/Executive Director
Organization:	Texas Animal Health Commission
Email:	comments@tahc.state.tx.us
Telephone Number:	800-550-8242 x718 (Area code required)

Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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